

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

September 5th, 2014

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1 Alberta Oil Sands: Bad for Business?

Have you heard about the oil sands in Alberta? If so, what have you heard? This first story is about how the city of Calgary is being affected by Alberta's business in oil.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Word	Definition
survey (n)	A list of questions that ask people about their opinions on a subject
reputation (n)	How people feel about something because of what happened in the past
industry (n)	Large-scale gathering and production of resources, like oil, coal, wood, etc.
criticism (n)	Negative comments about someone or something
export (n)	Goods and resources that are shipped out of a country to another country
influence (v)	To indirectly affect the way someone thinks or what they do
public relations (n)	The job of telling the public what a business does in a positive light, so the public will support the company

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

oil capital of Canada– The place in Canada that is richest in oil and harvests the most oil

energy sector – the section of the government, which looks after energy

1. We need the _____ department to explain what happened to the people.
2. The oil sands in Alberta have had a lot of _____ for destroying the environment.
3. If you give people a _____, you can find out how many are in support of the oil industry.
4. The desire to make money _____ people's decisions a lot of the time.
5. The _____ of business often depends on its history.
6. Canada has many _____; such as oil, fish, and lumber.
7. Alberta is most known for its oil _____.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true (T)** or **false (F)**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ The survey shows that Calgary has had a positive history in regards to the oil industry.
2. ____ People do not want to move to Calgary because of its negative reputation.
3. ____ Businesses have not been influenced by the negative reputation.
4. ____ Public relations have been unsuccessful in changing people's minds about Calgary.
5. ____ The criticism that Calgary has faced about the oil sands is on a global scale.
6. ____ The energy sector is responsible for 33% of Alberta's foreign exports.

Discussion: What benefits has oil brought to our lives? What effects does the oil industry have on the environment? Are the benefits of oil worth the environmental issues it causes?

News story #2 Under-prepared Politicians

Do you vote? What do you look for in a good leader? This second story is about the three politicians who are trying to get elected to be the next leader of the Alberta Progressive Conservative party.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
	1. mayor	a) feelings, thoughts or beliefs on something
	2. prepared	b) a person who is running in an election
	3. contender	c) an important member of town council
	4. position	d) to be ready for something
	5. issue	e) the political leader of a town or city
	6. alderman	f) a person who is competing against others for something
	7. candidate	g) problem

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

PC Party – a political group in Canada – Progressive Conservatives

municipal position –government job in a town or city

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Calgary's mayor is disappointed with	a) the PC party leaders b) the three contenders for the PC party
2. The mayor is specifically upset about	a) the men's lack of knowledge on city issues b) the men competing at all
3. Naheed Nenshi wanted to know the contenders'	a) views on important city issues b) positions on their leadership
4. The contenders have	a) given the issues a lot of thought b) not given much time nor thought on the issues
5. Naheed Nenshi seems to be most surprised about	a) Ric McIver's lack of preparedness b) Thomas Lukaszuk's under-preparedness
6. Nenshi has provided the public with information by	a) talking about the problems on the news b) putting information on his website

Discussion Question: How should candidates better prepare for an election such as the one that is coming up in Alberta? What kind of issues would you like to see solved in the city you live? If you were a political leader, what problem would you work on first in your own neighbourhood?

News story #3 School Fees

What is a reasonable amount to pay to get to and from school each year? How much should people pay to have their children watched by an adult during lunchtime for 10 months a year? This last story is about the difference in school fees between the Public and Catholic school boards.

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words in the story	Related words
	1. pocket book	a) watching someone in-charge of someone
	2. supervision	b) to travel by bus take the bus
	3. fee	c) similar almost the same
	4. district	d) wallet bank account
	5. bussing	e) an area a territory or region
	6. comparable	f) cost price

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Catholic school system- schools that include the studying and practicing of the Catholic religion

Public school system- schools that do not include religion as part of their studies

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

1. Who is getting their pocket books hit?
2. How much more will Public school parents pay than Catholic school parents?
3. What are these parents paying for?
4. How much are the Catholic school parents paying for both bussing and supervision?
5. How much are the Public school parents paying for bussing and supervision?
6. What would Jessica Lane like to see happen?

Discussion: Is education free in the country you are from? Who should pay for education and all that it entails, such as bussing and supervision?

Language Focus - Identifying Adjectives

The purpose of an adjective is to describe a noun, or pronoun. Adjectives can either go before the noun it describes, or after. Adjectives tell us extra information about the noun, or pronoun, and being able to identify them and determine exactly what kind of information the adjective is offering is what this Language Focus lesson is about.

See the example below from a story this week, which shows both placements (before and after the noun):

“City Councillor, Druh Farrell, says **she's concerned** the energy industry is losing the public relations war over its **environmental record**.”

When trying to identify adjectives and the nouns they describe, you could ask yourself questions about each. Example:

a) Identify the adjectives by questioning the noun:

Identify the adjective “concerned” by asking a question about the noun “she”:

How is she feeling? Answer: Concerned.
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Identify the adjective “environmental” by asking a question about the noun “record”:
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What kind of record is it? Answer: environmental
--

b) Find out which noun the adjective is describing by questioning the adjective:

Identify the noun “she” by asking a question about the adjective “concerned”:

Who is concerned? Answer: She

Identify the noun “record” by asking a question about the adjective “environmental”:
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What is environmental? Answer: The record

Look at the following sentences taken from the news stories and try to identify the adjective and the nouns they are describing by questioning each. Careful some examples have more than one adjective.

1. The energy sector is responsible for two-thirds of Alberta's foreign exports...

Adjective:

Noun it's describing:

2. Nenshi has posted a link on his website to the candidates' municipal positions.

Adjective:

Noun it's describing:

3. Calgary's mayor says he's disappointed with the views of all three contenders for the PC Party leadership...

Adjective:

Noun it's describing:

4. Naheed Nenshi asked Jim Prentice, Ric McIver and Thomas Lukaszuk for their positions on a number of issues important to the City.

Adjective:

Noun it's describing:

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	SEPT 5 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Rosa Marchitelli . You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of September 5th.	0:00
Story 1	A survey suggests Calgary's reputation as the oil capital of Canada could be a negative one. The survey done by Calgary Economic Development says the industry's reputation is negatively influencing people's decisions about moving to or doing business in Calgary. City Councillor, Druh Farrell, says she's concerned the energy industry is losing the public relations war over its environmental record. She says that international criticism of the oil sands could be bad for Calgary and Alberta. Calgary Economic Development plans to work with the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers to ensure more information gets out about the industry's work. The energy sector is responsible for two-thirds of Alberta's foreign exports... and contributes one-third of Calgary's G-D-P.	0:12
Story 2	Calgary's mayor says he's disappointed with the views of all three contenders for the PC Party leadership when it comes to city issues. Naheed Nenshi asked Jim Prentice, Ric McIver and Thomas Lukaszuk for their positions on a number of issues important to the City. He says none of them have put much thought or time into these issues. He says he's surprised that a former alderman, Ric McIver, isn't better prepared than his competitors. Nenshi has posted a link on his website to the candidates' municipal positions.	1:19
Story 3	Another start to the school year means another hit to the pocket book for most parents. Calgary public school parents will pay about twice as much as those with kids in the Catholic system for bus and lunch-hour supervision fees. Bussing by the CBE will cost three-hundred-and-thirty dollars and noon hour fees, another two-hundred-and-eighty. Calgary Catholic parents will pay just two-hundred-and-fifteen dollars for bus and 80 dollars for supervision. Jessica Lane has kids in both school districts. She can't believe the difference in costs. Lane says she knows it's two different school systems, but she would still like costs to be more comparable between the two.	2:03

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary:

1. We need the public relations department to explain what happened to the people.
2. The oil sands in Alberta have had a lot of criticism for destroying the environment.
3. If you give people a survey, you can find out how many are in support of the oil industry.
4. The desire to make money influences people's decisions a lot of the time.
5. The reputation of business often depends on its history.
6. Canada has many exports; such as oil, fish, and lumber.
7. Alberta is most known for its oil industry.

Listening:

1. F The survey shows that Calgary has had a positive history in regards to the oil industry.
2. T People do not want to move to Calgary because of its negative reputation.
3. F Businesses have not been influenced by the negative reputation.
4. T Public relations have been unsuccessful in changing people's minds about Calgary.
5. T The criticism that Calgary has faced about the oil sands is on a global scale.
6. F The energy sector is responsible for 33% of Alberta's foreign exports.

News story 2

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
e	1. mayor	a) feelings, thoughts or beliefs on something
d	2. prepared	b) a person who is running in an election
f	3. contender	c) an important member of town council
a	4. position	d) to be ready for something
g	5. issue	e) the political leader of a town or city
c	6. alderman	f) a person who is competing against others for something
b	7. candidate	g) problem

Listening:

1. Calgary's mayor is disappointed with	a) the PC party leaders b) the three contenders for the PC party
2. The mayor is specifically upset about	a) the men's lack of knowledge on city issues b) the men competing at all
3. Naheed Nenshi wanted to know the contenders'	a) views on important city issues b) positions on their leadership

4. The contenders have	a) given the issues a lot of thought b) not given much time and thought on the issues
5. Naheed Nenshi seems to be most surprised about	a) Ric McIver's lack of preparedness b) Thomas Lukaszuk's under-preparedness
6. Nenshi has provided the public with information by	a) talking about the problems on the news b) putting information on his website

News story 3

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words in the story	Related words
d	1. pocket book	a) watching someone in-charge of someone
a	2. supervision	b) to travel by bus take the bus
f	3. fee	c) similar almost the same
e	4. district	d) wallet bank account
b	5. bussing	e) an area a territory or region
c	6. comparable	f) cost price

Listening:

1. Who is getting their pocket books hit? **Parents**
2. How much more will public school parents pay than Catholic school parents? **Twice as much**
3. What are these parents paying for? **School bus and supervision fees**
4. How much are the Catholic school parents paying for both bussing and supervision? **\$330.00 for the bus and \$280.00 for the supervision**
5. How much are the Public school parents paying for bussing and supervision? **\$215.00 for the bus and \$80.00 for supervision.**
6. What would Jessica Lane like to see happen? **She would like to see the costs for bussing and supervising be more comparable between the two school systems.**

Language focus:

1. The **energy** sector is **responsible** for two-thirds of Alberta's **foreign** exports...

Adjective: responsible – Which sector? Energy. What is the **energy** sector? It is responsible.
foreign – What kind of exports? They are foreign.

Noun it's describing: - what is responsible? The energy sector.
exports – What is foreign? The exports are foreign.

2. Nenshi has posted a link on his website to the candidates' **municipal** positions.

Adjective: **municipal** – what kind of positions were they? They were municipal positions.

Noun it's describing: **the positions** – what were municipal? The positions were.

3. Calgary's mayor says he's **disappointed** with the views of all **three** contenders for the PC Party leadership...

Adjective: **disappointed** – How did the mayor feel? He felt disappointed.
Three – How many contenders? Three.

Noun it's describing: **the mayor of Calgary** – Who felt disappointed? The mayor did.
What were there three of? Three contenders.

4. Naheed Nenshi asked Jim Prentice, Ric Mclver and Thomas Lukaszuk for their positions on a number of issues **important** to the City.

Adjective: **important** – What are the issues? Important

Noun it's describing: **the issues** – what are important? The issues are.